

Name: _____

Date: _____

s17 Geometric Series Exam (Solution v1)

Question 1

Consider the partial geometric series represented below with first term $a = 608$, common ratio $r = \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^{1/10}$, and $n = 10$ terms.

$$S = 608 + 551.2 + 499.7 + 453.02 + 410.69 + 372.32 + 337.54 + 306 + 277.41 + 251.5$$

We can multiply both sides by r .

$$rS = 551.2 + 499.7 + 453.02 + 410.69 + 372.32 + 337.54 + 306 + 277.41 + 251.5 + 228$$

What is the value of $S - rS$?

Most terms cancel.

$$608 - 228 = 380$$

Question 2

Consider the geometric series shown below, using ellipsis notation to indicate a continuation of the pattern without writing every term.

$$S = 8 + 8(4) + 8(4)^2 + 8(4)^3 + \cdots + 8(4)^{59} + 8(4)^{60} + 8(4)^{61} + 8(4)^{62}$$

Identify the initial term, the common ratio, and the number of terms.

$$\text{first term} = a = 8$$

$$\text{common ratio} = r = 4$$

$$\text{number of terms} = n = 63$$

Question 3

Write a proof for the partial geometric series formula.

- Define the variables.
- Write the sum using variables and ellipsis notation. You can implicitly assume the number of terms is more than the number of terms you choose to write.
- Using annotated algebraic manipulation, produce the partial geometric series formula.

Definitions

a = first term

r = common ratio

n = number of terms

S = sum of partial geometric series

The partial geometric series is expressed using ellipsis notation.

$$S = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \cdots + ar^{n-4} + ar^{n-3} + ar^{n-2} + ar^{n-1}$$

Multiply both sides by r .

$$rS = ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + ar^4 + \cdots + ar^{n-3} + ar^{n-2} + ar^{n-1} + ar^n$$

Subtract the second equation from the first equation.

$$S - rS = a - ar^n$$

Factor out S from left side.

$$S(1 - r) = a - ar^n$$

Divide both sides by $(1 - r)$. We technically need to enforce $r \neq 1$ as a condition of the formula because otherwise we'd be dividing by 0 in this step, and division by 0 is not defined.

$$S = \frac{a - ar^n}{1 - r}$$